THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The Ganga Action Plan envisages abatement of pollution of the river Ganga to improve its water quality. To achieve the same, 261 schemes for interception and diversion of domestic sewage, sewage treatment, low cost sanitation, electric/improved wood crematoria, river front facilities and others were taken up in 25 Class-I towns situated along the Ganga in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal. It was targetted to intercept, divert and treat 873 million litres per day (mld) waste water out of an estimated 1340 mld waste water being generated from these towns. With the completion of 208 schemes, 543 million litres per day (mld) of waste water is being intercepted and diverted and a capacity to treat 297 mld of waste water has been created. The water quality in terms of Dissolved Oxygen (DO) at all the 27 monitoring stations under Ganga Action Plan have shown discernible improvement and has consistently been above the permissible limits. In respect of Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), the levels meet the desired standards at all these monitoring stations except at Kanpur and sometimes at Varanasi (bank side) where the trend has been found to be erratic.

(b) and (c) A scheme of pollution abatement of river Yamuna called Yamuna Action Plan has been launched by the Government. Under this plan, work on pollution abatement have commenced in 6 towns of Haryana and 8 towns of Uttar Pradesh besides Delhi. The approved cost of the project is Rs. 357 crores. The cost is to be shared equally between the Centre and the concerned State Governments

(d) and (e) A programme for pollution abatement of identified polluted stretches in 17 major national rivers to be called the "National River Action Plan" is under consideration of the Government. The details in this regard are being worked out.

Smuggling of Sandalwood

3859. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated quantity and value of Sandalwood stolen/smuggled during the last three years, year-wise from the sandal growing areas of the country; and

(b) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The Quantity and value of Sandalwood stolen/ smuggled and subsequently seized during the last three years is given in statement (see below).

(b)(i) Export-Import Policy 1992—97 has imposed complete ban on export of sandalwood in any form but excluding fully finished handicrapts made out of sandalwood and machine finished Sandalwood Products.

(ii) Contractor system has been stopped and harvesting of Sandalwood is done through Government agencies only.

(iii) Intensive patrolling along borders, Coordination with B.S.F. and Customs departments and involvement of other people are also some of the steps to check incidence of theft/smuggling of sandalwoods.

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Sandalwood stolen (in Kgs)			Value (Rs. in lakhs)		
		1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6992.403	1859.005	638.025	5,09,645	1,33,316.50	8.212
2.	Karnataka	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	49.350	227.23	N.A.
3.	Tamil Nadu	7,34,320	603,368	N.A.	1147.08	1048.26	N.A.
4.	Kerala	1990	1991	1992	1990	1991	1992
		4840	660	1400	4,84,000	272,000	1,70,000